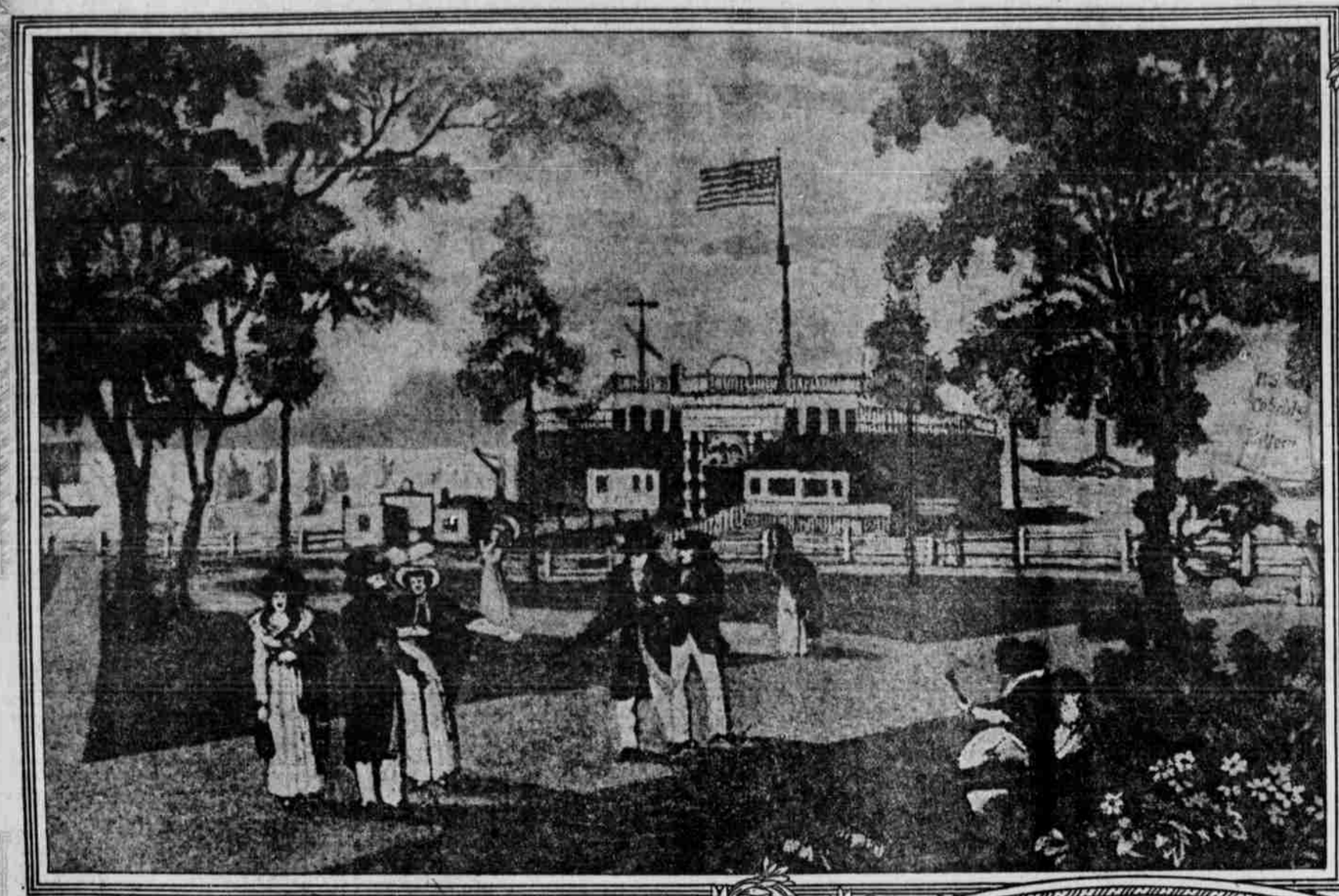
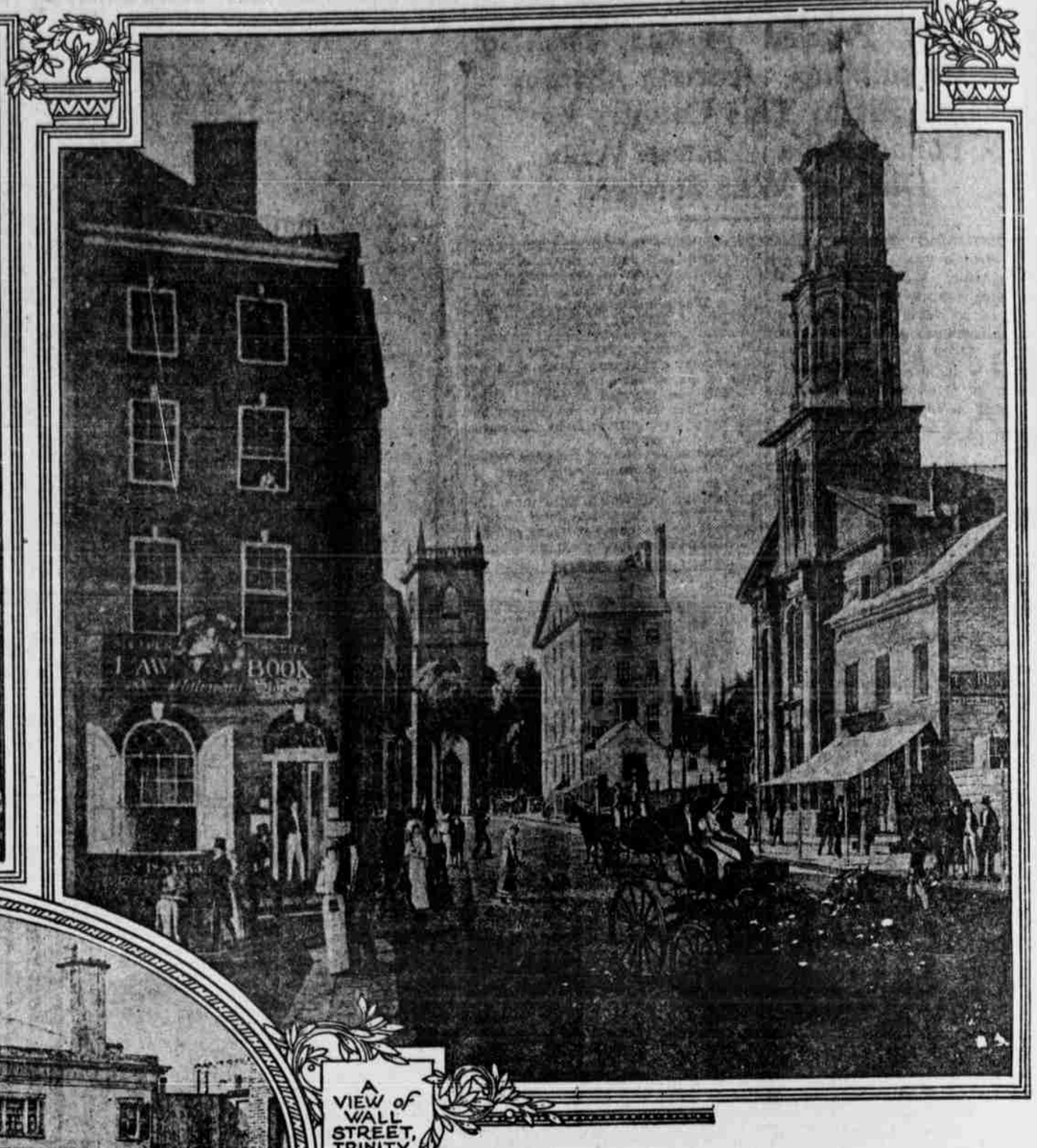
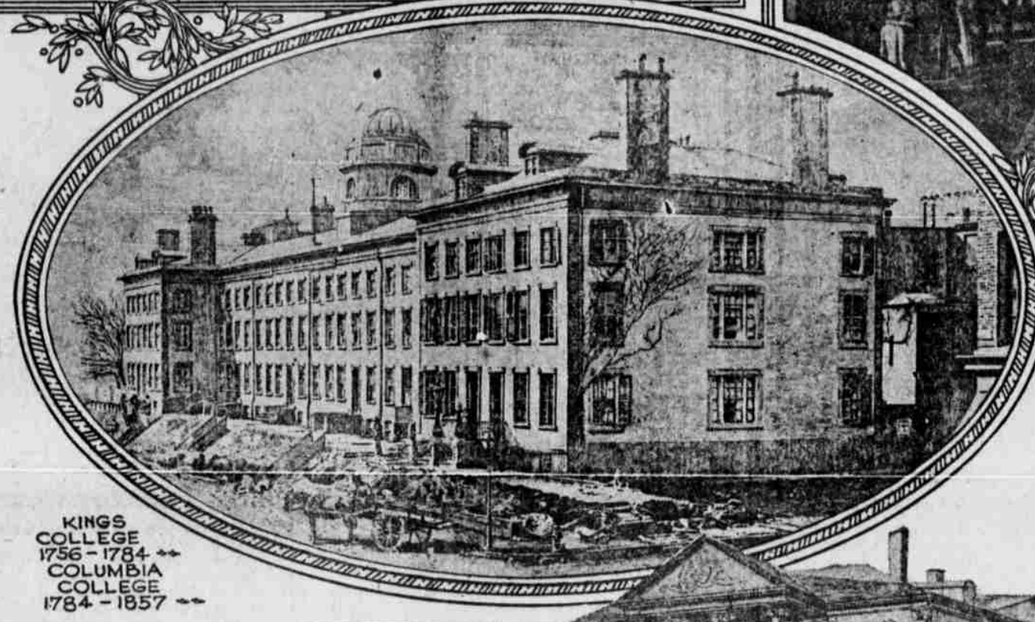
Art Exhibit Revives Interest in New York's Old Landmarks



CASTLE GARDEN *in* 1820 ↔



A VIEW of WALL STREET, TRINITY CHURCH *and the* PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ABOUT 1825



KINGS COLLEGE 1756–1784 ↔ COLUMBIA COLLEGE 1784–1857 ↔

The CUSTOM HOUSE 1799–1815 ↔

ASTOR HOUSE *in* 1867 ↔↔

STATE STREET NOS. 16–19 ABOUT 1864 ↔

Views of King's College and Castle Garden Figure Among Most Notable Works in Grolier Club Exhibition

THE Grolier Club exhibition of art works and prints, showing old landmarks of New York, continues with increased public interest. The ancient view of King's College, which stood near New York on the bank of Hudson's River," that is a block or two to the northwest of St. Paul's and consequently from 1756 to 1784 far out of town, is among the most curious. It shows a group of sturdy buildings in which, as was natural, the English style of construction has succeeded to the Dutch.

In any account of literary New York King's College would figure, and in the writings of the period it does figure. William Smith, who wrote a history of the city before the Revolution, gives it considerable space. When a young man he was one of the speakers at the ceremony of the laying of the cornerstone of King's College, which was to continue its existence after the Revolution as Columbia University.

An interesting print shows Castle Garden in its heyday. There the Marquis de Lafayette was received by the officials of the city in 1824 and there Samuel F. B. Morse first demonstrated in 1835 the possibility of controlling an electric current.

But the glory of Castle Garden is associated with the fame of Jenny Lind, the song bird who was Patti's only rival and with that of the great showman P. T. Barnum, who brought her to this country and opened her concert tour in this singular building. That it was possible to pack Castle Garden with the best people of the city is a commentary on the changes wrought by the years. Nowadays few music lovers would dream of going to the Battery to hear even a famous singer. They know it only as a sort of "land's end."

The Custom House as it existed from 1799 to 1815 on the site it now occupies at the foot of Broadway is remarkable for the fact that the present modern building preserves in its outlines a likeness to its predecessor. The earlier building, which stood on the site within the fort under Dutch domination, laid, it would seem, a sturdy and broad beamed ground plan that was not departed from. State street as it winds a little to the right of the Custom House has preserved almost unaltered several of its old buildings.

The neighborhood of Broad and Wall streets for more years than any one living can remember was the financial heart of the country, as it is to-day. All New Yorkers are familiar with it, but only the old timers realize what changes have been wrought there by time. The neighborhood, however, in the midst of change keeps fast hold of the hand of history, for there still stand Trinity and the Sub-Treasury to bind it to the New York of the Revolution.

But who remembers that at one time there stood on Wall street, not far removed from the then Federal Building, a handsome church? It has gone, and no tablet marks its site. George Washington could see it when he came out on the gallery of the Federal Hall to take the oath of office, after which public ceremony he turned his back on the "dissenting" church building and went on the day of his inauguration as a good churchman to the quaint St. Paul's Chapel, then quite a new structure. Trinity Church had been destroyed by fire and the trustees, extravagantly, as many of the congregation commented, had erected St. Paul's far out in the country.

At this period Wall street had some claims to be known as a residence street. Philip Frenau, the poet of the Revolution, lived there, and so did Alexander Hamilton, who did not purchase his country house, the Grange, far away in the wilds of Manhattan Island, until a decade afterward. Close by in Nassau street stood the humble dwelling of Aaron Burr. Both men had left this neighborhood long before the fatal day in 1804 when Hamilton was to lose his life and Burr his popularity.

Freer's Great Gift of Art to the Nati

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down with beauty mellowed and heightened by the touch of time.

That remarkable Rakka ware, from the city of Haroun al Raschid, is represented by scores of perfect specimens. The play of the prism which has enriched and glorified vessels which were made for the use of the housewife in ages past to carry water and store the meal is a revelation when seen in the cabinet of collectors such as was Mr. Freer.

There are pottery specimens from Persia, from Egypt, from ancient Babylon, from Greece and Mesopotamia, all having upon them the sheen of the ages and remaining to this day those things of beauty which in the words of the poet were destined to be joys forever.

The glassware from the tombs of ancient Egypt are remarkably beautiful and will be a source of inspiration to those interested in the development of vitreous wares in this present era.

The collections of bronzes are especially indicative of the culture of the nations of the past. The jades, a few of which are in the Metropolitan were gathered through years of careful research.

The great service which Mr. Freer performed for scholarship in finding a set of Gospels in the original Greek in the course of his travels will cause his name to be remembered in the centuries to come. This contribution was found near an old monastery and was acquired from an Arab dealer. It is illustrated by miniatures and has many drawings and paintings which have survived the centuries. This work has been the subject of considerable speculation by scholars and several important critical works have been based upon it. Mr. Freer permitted its use by the University of Michigan in a translation and commentary which attracted much attention in the world of scholarship a few years since. This and other ancient manuscripts which have to do with the Old and New Testaments will be shown in the Freer building and also be made accessible to students and scholars.

Here are indicated only the high lights of the picture of the benefaction of Charles Lang Freer as it will come before the eyes of men when the collection, assembled with such taste and care and dedicated to so lofty a purpose, will become the property of the land which gave birth to this unaffected altruist.

Marvellous Machinery in Farming

HUMAN control is reduced to a minimum in certain of the modern farm machines. The machines perform their various operations automatically, almost as if they had minds of their own. All the operator has to do is to feed them and steer them.

For example, there is, for purposes of planting, a machine for every kind of seed, cunningly designed, well built, and perfectly adapted to the work for which it is intended. It makes no mistake, never skips an inch, sows no more thickly in one place than another, and does its work with an intelligence which the average farmhand could not be expected to display.

For grain and grass the "broadcast seeder" is used. This is attached to an ordinary wagon, and the only human cooperation it requires is keeping its hopper full. It will also distribute all kinds of dry commercial fertilizers and put them just where they will do the most good.

A Drill That Thinks.

A mechanical grain drill is provided for such grains as need to be planted systematically in rows or hills. It is infallible in its operation, and would plant corn, for example, in the middle of a macadam road, if this was required of it. Among other attachments it has a land measurer, resembling a cyclometer, which records the acreage planted. To cover the seed it has planted it has a system of hose which is adjusted to work straight or zigzag.

A variant of this apparatus is used for weeding. Still another is the bean planter, which is quite remarkable in its "intelligence," so to speak. It drills the hole in the ground, plants the beans, covers them and marks the position of the next row at one operation. It will even alternate corn with beans, turn and turn about, or plant corn or beans, distribute fertilizer and cover everything impartially. In fact, it will do anything for which the farmer has intelligence to adjust it.

The potato planter would make a farmer of a generation ago sit up and rub his eyes. It requires that the potatoes be supplied, but will do all the rest of its own initiative. It picks the potato up and looks it over—or seems to—cuts it into halves, quarters, or any desired number of parts, separates the eyes and removes the seed ends. It plants whole potatoes or parts thereof as desired, as near together or as far apart as the judgment of the farmer on the driving seat suggests. Having dropped the seed it covers it, fertilizes it, tucks it in like a child put to bed and paces off the next row with mathematical accuracy.

Certain vegetables, notably tomatoes, cabbages, cauliflower, celery, lettuce and some others, need to be started in cold frames and transplanted for the practical business of growing. For this purpose there is a plant setting machine, which will handle a sprout as if it loved it, establish it in its new environment, gather the earth tenderly about its roots, give it a copious drink of water from a tank it carries and cover from four to six acres in a day.

The various operations generically known as "cultivating" were once the bane of the farmer's existence. Now he has a machine for each and every operation of crop tending, with a driver's seat as comfortable as can be. These machines seem to know a weed from a crop plant intuitively, and while they will snatch the former out by the roots without compunction, they pass the plant unharmed, provided, of course, it is growing in its proper place. These machines have been highly specialized, and for every operation connected with the tending of every kind of crop there is some one machine which performs it a little better than any other.

When the crop is ready for gathering, mechanism is seen at its best. The perfection of the modern reaper and binder is illustrated by an incident which is reported to have occurred in Illinois. A farmer had driven his reaper into the edge of a field ready for cutting, and dismounted from his seat to get a drink of cider. While he was thus occupied the horses took fright and ran away. They tore round and round the field, cutting a full swath with every jump, gathering up the grain, binding it with twine and tossing the bundles to one side. Before the team was caught it had covered six and a half acres, leaving only patches here and there to be gone over. This was accomplished in something less than twenty-four minutes.

Effects of Frost on Food

AN egg expands when it is frozen and breaks its shell. Apples contract so much that a full barrel will shrink until the top layer is a foot below the chine. When the frost is drawn out the apples assume their normal size and fill the barrel again.

Certain varieties are not appreciably injured by being frozen if the frost is drawn out gradually. Apples will carry safely in a refrigerating car while the mercury is registering fully 20 degrees below zero.

Potatoes, being so largely composed of water, are easily frozen. Once touched by frost they are ruined.